26th August 1926]

Excise.

Inspection of toddy and arrack shops.

* 2324 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the inspecting staff of toddy and arrack shops see to the convenience of all classes of people frequenting them and whether they have brought to the notice of Government any invidious distinction made as regards the manner of vending toddy and arrack to caste Hindus and depressed classes in the rural areas of Tanjore, Tinnevelly, Salem, North Arcot, Madura, South Arcot, Chingleput, Chittoor and Coimbatore?

A.—No.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that the depressed classes are made to stand outside the premises of the toddy and arrack shops . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is imparting information."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I want to know whether the Government are aware . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Government will be aware now as the hon. Member has imparted the information."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Have the Government made any rules to provide suitable accommodation to the members of all communities without making any distinction whatever, so that liquor will not be sold to the depressed classes through the holes in the shops for fear of pollution?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" It is the look-out of the shop-keepers to see that all the customers are treated properly so that they may have very great sale and roaring business."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Do the Government contemplate to make rules so as not to make any distinctions between depressed and non-depressed classes even in liquor shops?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" The Government do not want to make the place comfortable so that people will be attracted to it The Government want to discourage drink as much as possible."

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Opening of sugar factories in South Kanara.

* 2325 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to the debate on the excise policy of Government on 9th February 1926 (XXVII, pages 239–240 *et seq.*), will the hon. the Minister for Education and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have received applications with a view to facilities being offered for the opening of sugar factories and distilleries in South Kanara; and

(*b*) what action Government have taken on them?

A.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to question No. 2300.